

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JORDAN AIR DEFENSE: RIYALS FROM RIYADH?

PRIME MINISTER RIFAI TOLD AMBASSADOR PICKERING JULY 6 THAT HIS JULY 4 VISIT TO TEHRAN WENT VERY WELL, AND THAT THE SHAH ASSURED HIM KHALID WILL MAKE \$500 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR ANY WESTERN SYSTEM. RIFAI SAID THAT, DURING HIS AND HUSSEIN'S SUBSEQUENT TALKS WITH FAHD, THE SAUDIS:

--WERE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUNDING, PROMISING A FINAL DECISION BY JULY 7; AND

--GAVE HIM THE IMPRESSION THEY WILL PICK UP ANY SMALL REMAINING DIFFERENCES IN PRICE BETWEEN THE \$500 MILLION AND THE TOTAL COST OF A US SYSTEM.

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AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I SUSPECT THAT WE WILL KNOW WITHIN THE WEEK WHAT THE SAUDIS ARE PREPARED TO DO. FAHD INSISTED TO RIFAI THAT THE SAUDIS WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND THAT SEVERAL ARREARS ON PAST COMMITMENTS TO JORDAN WILL BE PAID ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. THAT MAY BE SOME SORT OF SIGNAL.
(SECRET) AMMAN 3552 (EXDIS), 7/6.)

2. SPAIN'S NEW PREMIER

A. ALONE AT THE TOP

EMBASSY MADRID FEARS THAT AREILZA'S AND FRAGA'S RESIGNATIONS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT A POTENTIAL CRISIS IN THE NAMING OF A NEW CABINET. THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT:

--SUAREZ HAS HAD TO DENY TO THE PRESS THAT HIS APPOINTMENT WAS INTENDED TO RETURN OPUS DEI TECHNOCRATS TO POWER.

--MODERATE OPPOSITION FIGURES HAVE SO FAR TURNED DOWN OFFERS OF CABINET POSTS.

--IN THIS CONTEXT, IF AREILZA -- SEEN AS A GUARANTOR OF CONTINUED REFORM -- PERSISTS IN HIS REFUSAL TO JOIN, IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT TO ASSEMBLE A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: NO ONE IS INDISPENSIBLE. CABINET CRISES HAVE A WAY OF RUNNING THEIR COURSE, AND NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE. THE DANGER IS THAT SUAREZ WILL BE FORCED TO FALL BACK ON THE OLD WAR HORSES OR ON UNKNOWNNS, GIVING HIS CABINET A JERRY-BUILT CHARACTER THAT WOULD NOT AUGER WELL FOR ITS STAYING POWER.

B. AN OFFER THAT CAN'T BE REFUSED?

IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT JULY 6 SUAREZ MADE A GENERAL APPEAL TO SPANIARDS OF ALL PERSUASIONS TO LEND A HAND IN PUTTING TOGETHER A NEW POLITICAL FRAMEWORK. THE PRIME MINISTER:

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--PROMISED FUTURE GOVERNMENTS WILL BE FORMED ON THE BASIS OF ELECTED MAJORITIES;

--POINTEDLY LEFT THE TASK OF DEFINING A PROGRAM TO THE YET-UNFORMED GOVERNMENT; AND

--EVOKED THE CONCEPT OF A DEMOCRATIC MONARCHY, FAIL-

ING TO MENTION THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL MOVE-
MENT, LET ALONE FRANCO.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN HIS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE CODEWORDS
THAT HAVE BEEN THE HALLMARK OF DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION RHET-
ORIC, SUAREZ HAS GIVEN THE OPPOSITION A PUBLIC SIGNAL
THAT HE WANTS THEM TO BE PART OF THE NEW GAME -- AN OFFER
HE HOPES THEY CAN'T REFUSE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 5209
AND 5221, 7/6.) KISSINGER

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